

## Interagency Veterans Council

# NGO Employment Pod Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2012

9:00 – 10:00 am

Conference Call

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### I. Introductions

### II. Approval of January 25 meeting minutes

Mary moved to approve, Marcy 2<sup>nd</sup>. Minutes approved.

### III. Interagency Veterans Council (Employment NGO Pod)

**Purpose of Meeting** – To discuss progress on documenting the current services, funding, and data available for identifying and improving veteran employment outcomes; continue discussing goals of the workgroup; prepare for February 22/23 meeting with GO's.

### II. Open Issues

**Information collection** - Identifying services offered, funding available, and data collected by non-government organizations to improve veteran employment outcomes in California.

- Keith asked if information was being collected in the same way for all pods. Jason explained that the forms were created for all groups and they will be compiled together for use in the meeting on February 22/23.
- Concern was raised that this information was already available in the Veteran Resource Handbook and that we are duplicating efforts. Jason agreed to look at the handbook and glean any usable information from it. Jason gave examples of the information already collected from the Government Organizations.
- Discussion drifted to ideas of how to improve services for veterans and Keith reminded the group that these detailed discussions will be valuable during the meeting on the 22/23 but that we need to focus on creating the infrastructure for that meeting by collecting information. He made clear that it is due by the 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Goals of Workgroup**

- Keith asked how we make sure that all veteran service organizations are involved and engaged in the council so that it is not another failed effort. Debbie said she could get Garamendi's #2 person to the meetings. Mary stated that she looks at this from a corporate perspective of "what's in it for me?" If we can show we are making progress, it will motivate people to get involved. Marcy stated that we should definitely have a strategic plan. Mary asked whether the Governor has outlined the goals of this council. Keith responded that he is not aware of anything besides the initial executive order.

- Keith had ideas for how to prioritize veteran employment needs. Mary voiced her concern about not duplicating efforts and recreating the wheel.
- Jason advised the group to shift focus from individual ideas to step back and think about what we can do as a group to create an environment where many of these ideas can be heard and implemented. We need to show progress by picking the low hanging fruit, while creating a structure that allows communication and cooperation between participants of the council. Jason gave an example of low hanging fruit as Marcy's idea of sharing her agency's information on veterans they serve, with other agencies represented on the workgroup. Keith voiced his opinion that low hanging fruit should be the top priority of the group. Mary stated her preference to have a strategic plan with goals and objectives, to have a solid structure to measure our short term wins against. Jason explained that his understanding of the process was to create a strategic plan and that the meeting on the 22/23<sup>rd</sup> would be our starting point for that.

### **III. New Business**

#### **Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>**

- Participants were surprised to hear about the meeting and asked why they had not received any information about it. Ken had received an email from JP Tremblay so he shared the information he had with the rest of the group. Jason notified the group that the final details were being worked out and that more information would be forthcoming. Participants expressed displeasure at the short notice as they need to make travel arrangements.

### **IV. Action Items**

- Keith will talk with Eric to get more information about the upcoming meeting.
- Participants will continue to send any information they have to Jason by February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Jason will consult the Veterans Resource Handbook and other resources for usable information in documenting existing veteran employment services, funding, and data.

### **V. Roll Call**

- Present:
  - Jason Van Court, CRB
  - Debbie Gregory, Military Connections
  - Ken Holybee, VVA
  - Marcy Orosco, Salvation Army
  - Keith Boylan, Swords to Plowshares
  - Mary O'Donnell, Coast Guard
  - Bobby McDonald, Black Chamber of OC
- Absent:
  - Todd Thakar, Prudential
  - Robert Anderson, CA ESGR
  - David Lewis, CA ESGR
  - Pete Conaty, Veterans Advocate

**VI. Caveats**

- None

Minutes submitted by: Jason Van Court

Minutes approved by NGO Employment Pod on: